

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

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1 An exterior rearview mirror system for a vehicle comprising:

an exterior mirror including a housing and a reflective element positioned in said housing;

5 a floodlight projecting light from said housing generally downwardly on an area adjacent a portion of the vehicle in order to create a lighted security zone in said area; and

10 an actuator for said floodlight including a base unit in the vehicle and a remote transmitter, wherein said base unit is responsive to a signal from said remote transmitter in order to actuate said floodlight.

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1 The mirror system in claim 1 wherein said actuator includes a lockout device in order to prevent actuation of said floodlight during operation of the vehicle.

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1 The mirror system in claim 2 wherein said actuator further includes connection with an interior light circuit of the vehicle in order to actuate said floodlight when the interior lights of the vehicle are actuated.

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3 1 The mirror system in claim 3 wherein said actuator further includes connection with an interior light circuit of the vehicle in order to actuate said floodlight when the interior lights of the vehicle are actuated.

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1 The mirror system in claim 1 further including a
warning light on said exterior mirror for projecting light
from said exterior mirror generally rearwardly of the
vehicle and another actuator for said warning light
5 including a connection with at least one of a stoplight
circuit and a turn signal circuit of the vehicle in order to
actuate said warning light when at least one of said
stoplight and said turn signal are being actuated.

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1 The mirror system in claim 1 further including
first and second warning lights on said exterior mirror,
each adapted for projecting light from said housing
generally rearwardly of the vehicle and actuators for said
5 *sub* *ar* first and second warning lights including a connection with
a stoplight circuit of the vehicle in order to actuate one
of said first and second warning lights when the stoplights
are being actuated and a connection with a turn signal
circuit of the vehicle in order to actuate the other one of
said first and second warning lights when the turn signal is
10 being actuated.

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B 1 The mirror system in claim *2* wherein said
floodlight projects a pattern of light extending laterally
onto the vehicle and downwardly and rearwardly of the
vehicle, wherein the lighted security zone extends from the
5 vehicle door to the rear of the vehicle.

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1 *sub B'* An exterior rearview mirror system for a vehicle
comprising:

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an exterior mirror including a housing and a reflective element positioned in said housing;

5 a floodlight for projecting a pattern of light from said housing on an area of ground adjacent a portion of the vehicle in order to create a lighted security zone in said area, said first pattern extending laterally onto the vehicle and downwardly and rearwardly of the vehicle,
10 wherein said lighted security zone extends from the vehicle door to the rear of the vehicle; and

an actuator for said floodlight.

1 The mirror system in claim 8 wherein said actuator includes a base unit in the vehicle and a remote transmitter, wherein said base unit is responsive to a signal from said remote transmitter in order to actuate said
5 floodlight.

1 The mirror system in claim 9 wherein said actuator includes a lockout device in order to prevent actuation of
sub 27 said floodlight during operation of the vehicle.

B 1 The mirror system in claim 9 wherein said actuator further includes connection with an interior light circuit of the vehicle in order to actuate said floodlight when the interior lights of the vehicle are being actuated.

1 The mirror system in claim 8 further including a signal light adapted to projecting another pattern of light from said housing and connected with at least one of a stoplight circuit and a turn signal circuit of the vehicle
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5 in order to actuate said signal light when at least one of
the stoplights and turn signal are being actuated.

1 The mirror system in claim ~~12~~¹¹ wherein said another
pattern of light extends laterally away from the vehicle and
rearwardly of the vehicle wherein said another pattern can
be observed directly by a driver of another vehicle passing
5 said vehicle but not by a driver of said vehicle.

1 The mirror system in claim ~~12~~¹¹ wherein each of said
floodlight and said signal light are generated by an
incandescent lamp positioned in said housing.

1 The mirror system in claim ~~12~~¹¹ wherein each of said
floodlight and said signal light are generated by a light
emitting diode positioned in said housing.

1 The mirror system in claim ~~12~~¹¹ wherein each of said
floodlight and said signal light are generated by a vacuum
fluorescent lamp.

1 The mirror system in claim ~~12~~¹¹ wherein each of said
floodlight and said signal light are generated by a light
source in the vehicle and a light pipe between said light
source and said housing.

1 The mirror system in claim ~~12~~¹¹ wherein said
floodlight generates said first pattern through a
non-filtering lens wherein said first pattern of light is
white.

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1 The mirror system in claim ~~12~~ wherein said signal
light generates said ^{another} ~~second~~ pattern through a filtering lens
wherein said second pattern is red or amber.

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1 An exterior rearview mirror system for a vehicle
comprising:

an exterior mirror including a housing and a
reflective element positioned in said housing;

5 a floodlight adapted to projecting light from said
housing generally downwardly on an area adjacent a portion
of the vehicle in order to create a lighted security zone in
said area; and

an actuator for said floodlight including a
10 lockout device in order to prevent actuation of said
floodlight during operation of the vehicle.

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1 The mirror system in claim ~~20~~¹⁹ wherein said
actuator further includes connection with an interior light
circuit of the vehicle in order to actuate said floodlight
when the interior lights of the vehicle are being actuated.

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1 The mirror system in claim ~~20~~¹⁹ further including a
signal light adapted to projecting light from said housing
generally rearwardly of the vehicle and connected with at
least one of a stoplight circuit and a turn signal circuit
5 of the vehicle in order to actuate said signal light when at
least one of the stoplights and turn signal are being
actuated.

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The mirror system in claim ~~20~~ further including first and second signal lights, each adapted to projecting light from said housing generally rearwardly of the vehicle and connected with one of a stoplight circuit and a turn signal circuit of the vehicle wherein one of said first and second signal lights is actuated when the stoplights are being actuated and the other one of said first and second signal lights is actuated when the turn signal is being actuated.

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The mirror system in claim 20 wherein said floodlight projects a pattern of light extending laterally onto the vehicle and downwardly and rearwardly of the vehicle, wherein the lighted security zone extends from the vehicle door to the rear of the vehicle.

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